



County of Los Angeles

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

July 22, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

On July 22, 2003, the Board of Supervisors adopted Supervisor Knabe's amended motion to encourage enactment of immediate legislation to extend indefinitely Megan's Law in the State of California, and to enact such legislation which would require disclosure of the exact work and residential address of serious, or high-risk sex offenders.

Eight bills were introduced in the current Legislative Session to either extend or eliminate the sunset date for Megan's Law. Of these bills, all appear to have failed passage from their house of origin, except AB 1314 (Parra), which passed the Senate Public Safety Committee on July 14, 2003, and is currently awaiting a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee. AB 1314, as amended on July 15, 2003, would extend the provisions of Megan's Law from January 1, 2004, to January 1, 2007. Consistent with the Board's policy, **our Sacramento advocates will support AB 1314, and seek to amend the bill to eliminate the sunset date, and include a requirement to disclose the work and residential addresses of serious, or high-risk sex offenders.**

AB 1314 is supported by the Los Angeles County Sheriff, Los Angeles County District Attorney, San Bernardino County Sheriff, Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, and Californians for the Positive Enforcement of Megan's Law. It is opposed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

SB 358 (Figueroa), as amended on June 26, 2003, would create the Vocational Nurse Education Program to provide scholarships, educational loans, and loan repayment programs for vocational nursing students who agree in writing prior to completion of school to serve in a county health facility, state-operated health facility, or health manpower shortage area. The program would be funded by a \$5 license renewal assessment for vocational nurses. The bill would also increase the license renewal assessment for registered nurses from \$5 to \$10 to fund a similar existing program for registered nursing students. Finally, it would extend the sunset dates for the Board of Registered Nursing and Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2009.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) indicates that the severe shortage of nurses in California threatens to jeopardize public health. DHS recommends that the County support SB 358 because it would provide financial incentives to increase the number of licensed nurses available to work in medically underserved areas, such as those served by DHS facilities, help address the nursing shortage in California, and assist hospitals to comply with the new nurse-to-patient staffing ratio regulations, and we concur. Consistent with County policy to support enhanced funding for nursing education and training at public universities and teaching hospitals, as well as recruitment and retention of nurses into medically underserved areas, **our Sacramento advocates will support SB 358.**

SB 358 is sponsored by the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee and supported by the American Nurses Association of California, California Nurses Association, California Women Lawyers, Planned Parenthood, United Nurses Association of California, and the Union of Health Care Professionals. It is opposed by the Citizens Commission on Human Rights. SB 358 passed the Assembly Business and Professions Committee on July 2, 2003 by a vote of 13 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Status of Other County-Interest Legislation

County-supported AB 327 (Runner), which would increase the minimum fine from \$250 to \$500 for improper use of disabled persons' distinguishing license plates or placards, or illegally parking in a stall or space designated for disabled persons, was substantially amended on July 15, 2003 to eliminate the increase in the minimum fine and, instead authorize a city or county to assess an additional penalty of \$100 for violating parking restrictions and require that the additional fine be applied toward offsetting the cost of establishing a disabled parking enforcement program. It will also require the State Department of Motor Vehicles to print the amount of the fines,

including assessments, on the placards issued to disabled persons. In its amended form, AB 327 will continue to act as a deterrent to misuse of these facilities and placards, therefore, our Sacramento advocates will continue to support AB 327. On July 16, 2003, AB 327 was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee where it awaits a hearing.

County-supported AB 355 (Pacheco), which would include in the definition of escape an escape or attempted escape by a juvenile from a regional facility, a privately owned facility, or from a field trip site, passed the Senate on consent by a vote of 35 to 0 on July 21, 2003, and will be sent back to the Assembly for concurrence on Senate amendments.

County-supported AB 936 (Reyes), which would create the crime of trespass related to baby stalking, which would occur when an individual knowingly enters or remains in a neonatal unit, maternity ward, or birthing center located in a hospital or clinic without lawful business to pursue, was amended on July 21, 2003 to join AB 936 to AB 1263 (Benoit), and SB 993 (Poochigian). AB 1263 would make it a crime of trespass to enter into the inner area of an airport after intentionally avoiding screening and inspections procedures and SB 993 would make it a crime of trespass to enter upon lands or buildings where signs forbidding trespass are displayed and where cattle and other animals are being raised. AB 936 will now become operative only if AB 1263 or SB 993, or both, pass.

County-sponsored AB 1153 (Bermudez), which would criminalize the unauthorized use, manufacture or sale of any official State, county, city, city and county or agency badge and/or associated photographic identification card, passed the Senate on consent by a vote of 35 to 0 on July 21, 2003, and will be sent to the Assembly for concurrence on Senate amendments.

County-supported AB 1479 (Chu), which would delete the Department of Motor Vehicles' exclusive control over the monitoring of the traffic violator school program and continue the courts' control over monitoring, passed the Senate Transportation Committee on a vote of 9 to 3, and was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee where it awaits a hearing date.

County-sponsored SB 139 (Brulte), which makes clarifying changes to the "Safe Haven Law", to make it easier for a parent to surrender a newborn in a safe environment, passed from the Senate Floor on July 21, 2003 by a vote of 35 to 0, and now awaits action by the Governor.

Each Supervisor
July 22, 2003
Page 4

County-opposed SB 440 (Burton), which would provide that if certain public safety employee organizations request binding arbitration on economic issues when they are at impasse with an employing local government, the decision of the arbitrator is final, unless it is overturned by the unanimous decision of the local governing body, passed the Assembly floor on July 21, 2003 by a vote of 51 to 11. It now goes back to the Senate for concurrence in Assembly amendments.

County-supported SB 919 (Ortiz), which would add code enforcement officers to the list of specified officers or other persons protected under the Penal Code, and expand the protection statute if a person commits assault or battery against a code enforcement officer, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee by a vote of 22 to 0 on July 17, 2003, and is on the Assembly Consent Calendar.

County-supported SJR 7 (Karnette), which would request the President and Congress to maintain the present Federal restrictions on truck lengths and weights included in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, passed the Assembly by a vote of 63 to 13 on July 17, 2003.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:MS:JL:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Local 660
 All Department Heads
 Legislative Strategist
 Coalition of County Unions
 California Contract Cities Association
 Independent Cities Association
 League of California Cities